

DRAMA

Let's Play

**Perfecting the future by relating to the past
by playing in the present!**

Departure Material: Shakespeare's **JULIUS CAESAR**

Combined Teacher Presentation by Master Drama Teachers –

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Sixth Grade Students from Oakridge Elementary, Granite School District

Level: 6th Grade

Standard I, Objective 1

Standard II, Objective 1

Standard IV, Objectives 1 & 2

Lesson Goal:

Teachers will gain skills in utilizing DRAMA activities in teaching the core curriculum. Emphasis will be placed on activities that the teacher can use to make the curriculum more accessible to the students. The student's active participation through the theatre process will empower and invest the student with direct modern application of what they are learning.

Departure Question:

Can students better understand the political climate of Julius Caesar's Rome and apply it to modern examples if they explore it through drama?

Summation Question:

Do students have a social responsibility to prevent lawlessness and misbehavior around them?
Can drama be utilized as a tool for teaching social change in our classroom, our community, our nation, and our world?

Procedures:

Teacher initiates warm-up ritual

Part 1

Students find spot on floor to lay down with personal space.

Teacher plays relaxation music.

Teacher talks through body relaxation ritual.

Teacher talks through visualization exercise (geography tour ending in Rome).

Part 2

Students visualize a character from Julius Caesar.

Students stand slowly on a 10 count as their character.

Students walk the room and greet each other in character on repeated four counts.

Teacher calls freeze, and cues students to sit and listen.

Indicators of success:

- Students engage in the process of relaxation and visualization.
- Students focus and commit to role-play.
- Students retain knowledge of geography, architecture and characters in the story.

Teacher initiates the Tableau process:

- Teacher divides the class into small groups (5-6 per group).
- Teacher discusses what a tableau is.
- Teacher assigns each group with a scene from the play Julius Caesar.
- Each group creates four tableaus to tell the story of their scene.
- Each group shares with the class, in correct scene-by-scene sequence. The end product is the entire story of Julius Caesar told through tableau.

Indicators of success:

- Students engage enthusiastically.
- Students retain plot information (what is important to show through tableau).
- Students use teamwork and cooperation.
- Students learn spatial relationships.
- Students commit to role-play and take creative risks.

Teacher Initiates Play-making

- Teacher leads students through the creation of character building.
- Description/Discussion of modern courtroom, senate or U.N. gathering.
- Teacher describes roles, position in courtroom, students select character to play.
- Class creates instant courtroom using role-play.
- Class creates a Roman senate (again, each student is improvising a role. Character selected must show individual preferences, attitudes and alliances).
- Create the assassination scene of Julius Caesar through character building, led by teacher throughout improvisation.
- Teacher initiates discussion on implications to modern times.
- Class creates scene of a student hallway; students role-play different types of characters, fight erupts, what do the various characters do? What socially correct actions should they take?
- Teacher initiates discussion and re-iteration of discoveries made by students.

Indicators of success:

- Students actively engage in discussion, creation, and implementation of scenes.
- Students commit to roles they have created: Street scene, courtroom, senate, Julius Caesar, and school hallway.
- Students articulate discoveries made through the process.

Key Words/Vocabulary

Warm-up: An initiating exercise that focuses and prepares students for the creative event.

Tableau: Live action, frozen pictures created by the students that tell a story or event.

Character-building: Activities that allow a student to develop and explore a character role that they have assumed.

Creative Dramatics: Dramatics activities that utilize a child's natural ability to play TO LEARN.

Materials:

List of characters for students to play in informal scenes.

Script of Shakespeare's **Julius Caesar**.

Pictures of courtrooms, senates, United Nations.

Prior Knowledge and Experiences:

Students will have participated in warm-up activity.

Students will be familiar with the characters and plot of Shakespeare's **Julius Caesar**.